

Full Surrender to Christ

Text: 2 Samuel 19

Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 7pm

Series: Life of David

Tabernacle Baptist Church

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Theme: Open your Bibles to **2 Samuel 19**. The title of our message tonight is "Full Surrender to Christ".

This is a message about the constant need of revival and surrender to Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ died so that we may live, and this message is one of urging you to lay hold afresh and anew of Jesus Christ. Act tonight and every night and day as if you've just been saved. This is a message to restore your enthusiasm and zeal. We do not lack knowledge. But I do believe it is quite easy to lose our first love!

We learn a lesson of God's love from David tonight as some of the people welcome him back.

[Prayer for Guidance]

Context: After Absalom's death, there was a delay in bringing David back as king. Three kinds of people welcome him.

- **Shimei**, a rebel, **surrenders** to David, and David has mercy on him.
- Mephibosheth, Jonathan's son, earnestly sought David's renewed friendship, and was willing to **sacrifice** everything to stay with David.
- Then we have **Barzillai** who never wavered in his unwavering **service** for David.

Tonight we are going to see:

- The real **hope** in living close to Christ.
- The right attitudes of the **heart** for those who will live close to Christ
 - Absolute surrender
 - Unusual sacrifice
 - Unwavering service
- The remarkable heart of Christ for you!

There was a great strife in Israel after Absalom's death. Most everyone was stunned. But there were some there who wondered why they didn't immediately bring back the king. Their words are recorded in **2 Samuel 19:10**, "Now therefore why speak ye not a word of bringing the king back?"

David lived a long time ago. We know they should have brought him back right away. But I believe there are several if not many here and you have grown comfortable and maybe even cold in your heart. And you need to yield back control of your life to Jesus Christ. You need to be filled with the Spirit afresh and anew. Did you experience the Spirit's witness of comfort and His anointing of power today? How long has it been?

- I. There is **Real Hope** in the message tonight. There is a **Real Need** for all of us to be reminded of this message regularly. There is a battle and a warfare, and we all have a tendency to sleep in Gethsemane instead of pray. We all tend to sink in the water instead of walk on it.

As believers it is easy to stray from the Presence of Christ. Though we do not lose Christ's indwelling, we lose the power of His presence. We lose our way. We go astray. We need renewal. We need refreshing. We get dull and stubborn again. We need Christ tonight. James says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (**James 4:8**). Near to God is where we need to be! We need to be those who live lives of absolute surrender, of unusual sacrifice, and of unwavering service.

- II. Let's look three **Right Attitudes of the Heart** in all those who will live close to the Lord. We see this in how three people came to David. Rebels need to surrender. The wayward need to be willing to sacrifice all. The faithful need to

- A. In **Shimei**, we see absolute **surrender**—Shimei remember *cursed* David as he was rejected as king by the people. There was only one way that Shimei could have stayed alive in David's restored kingdom. He came on terms of absolute surrender to the mercy of David. Andrew Murray said, "The condition for obtaining God's full blessing is absolute surrender to Him".¹

Like Shimei, we have cursed the King of kings with our sinful lives, and there must come a place in our lives of full surrender to Him. It is and must be a FULL surrender. This full surrender will not produce a sinless life, but it will produce a heart for holiness and to stay as far from sin as possible.

Those who come show full repentance. He knew he risked being condemned.

Listen to Shimei's cry in **verse 21**, "Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart." This is so beautiful. David himself said, "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" (**Psalms 130:3**).

1. Surrender means that you that you stop delighting in your iniquity (lawlessness), and you start delighting in God's will. We easily fall into the deception that God always wants us to feel good at all costs. I think we are more complex than that. Sometimes we feel good by doing worldly things. There is "pleasure in sin for a season". At the same time, we feel bad spiritually. God wants us to choose that our pleasure would be in Him. That meant a cross for Jesus and it means a cross for all of us who are Christ followers.

What is surrender? It is a giving ourselves over to the control of another. Absolute surrender then, means that no one else has control. Absolute also means that he has control over me entirely. That means all my thoughts must desire anything else, but for His glory. That means I am to love God...

¹ Andrew Murray. *Absolute Surrender*.

- with all my heart-my affections,
- my soul-my spiritual life,
- with all my mind- my intellect,
- with all my might-every physical thing I do is for God.

2. God **expects** our full surrender to Him. God expects you to surrender as a child of God. God cannot be any thing else that what He is, and He is the supreme sovereign of the universe. He cannot allow rebels to remain in the universe, except to make them an example of His justice.

Are you willing to surrender yourselves absolutely into His hands? What is your answer? We are born with a nature like Shimei. We want to sin against God and then live for ourselves or for another ruler. But when the king came back, Shimei had no other choice but to surrender.

And there is coming a day of full and absolute surrender for every human being when the true and only King is coming back in the clouds, and every knee shall bow! Every mouth will confess that He is Lord. You will surrender to Him then, but will you surrender to Him now? God expects your full surrender to Him.

- (A) Do you realize that all **creation** is already absolutely surrendered to God? ***Everything*** in creation is surrendered to Him except demons and the human race.
- (B) There is no human being, living or dead that will not bow to Jesus Christ. All the rebels of the world will bow before Jesus Christ when He comes. "Every knee shall bow".
- (C) Who shall stand in their pride and their stubbornness when Christ comes? That's the question of Scripture in **Revelation 6**—turn there if you would. Who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 6:14-17, "And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. 15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17 For the great day of his wrath is come: and **who shall be able to stand?**".

Illustration: Our president greeted Japan's emperor by bowing before him, and he received a lot of criticism for it, because the president is not to bow before any foreign dignitary.

But President Obama and Prince Charles of England, and the highest positions of authority on earth will all bow before King Jesus in absolute surrender. Who shall be able to stand before Jesus when He comes?

God expects your full surrender! God by His nature cannot have other rulers in the universe. But you say, I want to surrender, but how?

3. God **accomplishes** our full surrender to Him. God will do it. That is not to say you do nothing. That's nonsense. You must get up in faith, in total reliance on God. But it is God's power.

(A) Not by human strength.

Zechariah 4:6, "Not by might (of an army), nor by power (human strength), but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."

How can you do it? Paul gives us the answer in **Philippians 2:12-13**, "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure". What we need is to seek God until we are absolutely surrendered. That working out our salvation is NOT will power. It is a sincere distrust in our own power. It is with fear and trembling, knowing Christ said, "without me ye can do nothing" (**John 15:5**). Go to the Lord alone. You need Christ.

God expects you to surrender to Him absolutely. So how can God accomplish that full surrender?

- (B) Set aside anything that hinders you from Christ. Stop now and think through anything that is on your conscience right now.

How can we make this real? (Application): Are you cherishing a sin? Are you excusing a sinful habit? Are you nursing bitterness? Are you prideful in your words? Are you stubborn in your attitude? Are you selfish, forgetting about the needs of others, not serving others?

Is your conscience clear? If it is not, then you are not fully surrendered. God created you to be fully surrendered.

Action item: Perhaps some of you men set an hour to watch football. Some ladies can read a magazine for an hour. At the very least most of us have set aside an hour to eat the dinner meal. You say, "I have no time". Then fast for dinner and pray. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God" (**Matthew 6:33**). If you lack divine strength and wisdom it may be because you are not fully surrendered to God.

If you lack the faith for full surrender, you can simply pray, "Lord I believe, help thou my unbelief" (**Mark 9:24**). The apostle says, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (**James 4:8**).

4. **How do you come to surrender?** Not by telling people. Not by making public decisions. You must go to Christ and want only Christ. Christ must have the first place and second place. He must be your God. That is full surrender. It is through the prayer closet. It is a willingness that is given to you in answer to your sincere prayers, even your weakest prayers, that God will answer with power for you to live.

If you are God's child, and you are not willing to surrender, God will drive you to it.

Illustration: Many years ago, Cyrus S. Nusbaum, a young Methodist minister was struggling with his calling and a severe attack of discouragement. He was hoping his assignment from God might change, but his superiors reappointed him to the same difficult place of ministry. As the spiritual crisis deepened within him, he came to the breaking point of surrender to God's will no matter what that might mean. That day, he also wrote a hymn, "Let Him Have His Way with Thee".

*Would you live for Jesus, and be always pure and good?
Would you walk with Him within the narrow road?
Would you have Him bear your burden, carry all your load?
Let Him have His way with thee.*

*His power can make you what you ought to be;
His blood can cleanse your heart and make you free;
His love can fill your soul, and you will see
'Twas best for Him to have His way with thee.*

Are you running away from the king? Surrender is a running toward Christ with all that you are. He wants your best, though it seems insane right now. The flesh can do nothing but give you reason to complain, but the divine nature in you must over rule!

Paul describes surrender in Romans 6 as being dead to totally dead to sin and totally alive to God.

Romans 6:8-14, "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: 9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you".

- B. In **Mephibosheth**, we see unusual **sacrifice**—he welcomed the king back regardless of the benefits to him.

We read in **2 Samuel 19:25**, "...it came to pass, when he [Mephibosheth] was come to Jerusalem to meet the king, that the king said unto him, Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth? 26 And he answered, My lord, O king, my servant deceived me: for thy servant said, I will saddle me an ass, that I may ride thereon, and go to the king; because thy servant is lame."

So Mephibosheth pleads his case. Look at **verse 28**, "For all of my father's house were but dead men before my lord the king: yet didst thou set thy

servant among them that did eat at thine own table. What right therefore have I yet to cry any more unto the king? 29 And the king said unto him, Why speakest thou any more of thy matters? I have said, Thou and Ziba divide the land. 30 And Mephibosheth said unto the king, **Yea, let him take all, forasmuch as my lord the king is come again in peace unto his own house.**"

Mephibosheth said, "Let Ziba take all, as long as I can eat with my king!" Can you say that nothing on this earth compares to the beauty and glory of Christ? Do you say with David, "For a day in thy courts *is* better than a thousand [somewhere else]. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness" (Psalm 84:10).

Mephibosheth didn't bother fighting with Ziba about anything earthly. He was willing to give it all up that He might be with the king.

Are you willing to give up all so that you might win Christ? Are you willing to count all things but dung and loss that you might have your heart fully satisfied with Christ?

Matthew 13:44, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure, buried in a field, that a man found and reburied. Then in his joy he goes and sells everything he has and buys that field."

Can you say with David, "Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee*" (Psalm 73:25).

Can you say "for me to live is Christ" (Philippians 1:21)? Is there anything else that takes his place?

Mephibosheth was willing to give it all to Ziba. Some of you fear the king taking full control of your life because you are afraid of the sacrifice.

Let's Make it Real (Application): Christ may call you to serve Him in the sacrifice your health for him in sickness and affliction. Do you fear that if you follow Christ, he will test you with affliction? He often does. He may bring the affliction of the loss of your reputation because of Him. You may call you to lose your life financially. Are you afraid that He will test you in these ways? Yes, He will test you—He always tests and tries His children. He is training us in holiness. And if the Father tested and tried His only Son with affliction, will He not test and try you so that you come forth as gold? If He tried Abraham and asked him to sacrifice his only son Isaac, will He not ask you to sacrifice?

- C. In **Barzillai**, we see unwavering service—Barzillai was a wealthy man, and he and his family comforted David in his exile. Those who welcome the king are with Him in both popularity and persecution.

2 Samuel 19: 31-32, "And Barzillai the Gileadite came down from Rogelim, and went over Jordan with the king, to conduct him over Jordan. 32 Now Barzillai was a very aged man, *even* fourscore [80] years old: and he had

provided the king of sustenance while he lay at Mahanaim; for he was a very great man."

When the king asked him to come with him, Barzillai said because he was old he would be a burden to the king, but he gave him his own son to serve him. And we read in **verse 39**, "And all the people went over Jordan. And when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place."

Are you serving Christ faithfully? Are you serving him in difficulties and in prosperity? Can you say with Paul in **Philippians 4:11**, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. ¹² I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."?

Or do you only serve Christ when it fits your schedule?

Let's bring it down to earth (Application):

- Do you worship Christ with God's people when your work schedule allows it? Early on I made the decision to insist on having the Lord's Day and prayer meeting evening off.
- Will you commit to serve Christ in worship in the Word each morning? It's the little things that add up!
 - Start out with ten minutes each day.
 - Commit to praying while you clean up in the morning.
 - Take time before your meal, and have each person give thanks to the Lord for something before you pray.
 - Get an audio Bible and listen to it while you are in the car or while you exercise daily.
 - Cut out the internet or TV or something that takes up your time. Cancel it for a week and instead, read a solid devotional book from the church library or elsewhere.

Transition: When I think of sacrifice, I think of the woman who poured all her costly perfume on Christ's feet and washed them with her tears and her hair. Your sacrifice is a sweet savour to God!

III. Finally I want you to see the remarkable heart of Christ for you!

- A. Christ is far more gracious in His heart toward you than any other human being, including fellow believers! David is typical of Christ in his treatment of Shimei the rebel, and Christ is far more gracious than David!

David's men all told David that they would gladly kill Shimei for his outrageous sins against David.

But look at David's amazing response to **Shimei** in **verse 23**, "Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king swore unto him."

1. Christ also swears unto you through the covenant of his blood that you will not die either! You deserve to die, but we read:

"[God is] just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Romans 6:26).

Romans 8:1, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit". Do you have the witness and comfort of the Spirit? Have you experienced His anointing? Then this is proof that you are born again.

2. Christ's covenant of blood is with you if you have the Holy Ghost. In the book of **Acts 10:44**, that when Peter preached to the Gentiles, "the Holy Ghost fell on all them [the Gentiles] which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God."

We don't see people speaking in tongues today, but the same Spirit comes upon all those who believe in Christ. The signs of conversion today are the Spirit's witness in comfort and anointing in power.

If you have the Spirit of Christ, you cannot be condemned. God now owns you. The devil wants to make you doubt when you give him an opportunity through anger (Eph 4:26-32) or through bad family relationships (I Cor 7).

3. Christ's covenant directly affects how you deal with sin in your life. You need not fear, but we often do.

You may say, but I am a Christian, and I deserve that he take my salvation away. God is not that way. He changes us through His everlasting love. He says, that He will cleanse us and He will be our Advocate.

Consider **1 John 1:8-2:2**, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. 2:1 ¶ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

Christ's death for your sin was infinite. He is your Advocate. He loved you before your mother and father loved you. He loved you with a love that goes far deeper than time or than human love. He has loved you an unfathomable love. He loved you before you were ever conceived. He loved you before He created the angels or the earth, and He will love you forever!

Now who here is not as guilty as Shimei? "If thou, LORD, shouldst mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand?" (Psalm 130:3). But God's grace is

boundless to you than David's was to Shimei. Go to Christ; cling to Him. Just as you believe when you were born again, believe again.

4. Don't make excuses!
 - a. Your ignoring your sin doesn't cleanse your heart.
 - b. If you try and make up for it, that doesn't cleanse your conscience.
Stop what you are doing, and you will find Christ waiting for you always.

Yes Christ, the eternal God of heaven waits because He has condescended to you. He is the highest King in the universe, and you should be waiting on Him, but He waits on you, because He is more gracious than any other being in the universe.

- B. If we had more time we could speak of David's heart for **Mephibosheth**. Whatever Mephibosheth was willing to give to Ziba, it was all David's in the first place any way. David lavished his love on Mephibosheth to have him eat at his very table. He even inquired of Mephibosheth. He said in **verse 25**, "Wherefore wentest not thou with me, Mephibosheth?"

Christ inquires of you today. He said to the church at Laodoea. This is for Christians and for those who would want to be Christians. Jesus says in **Revelation 3:20**, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Christ bids you to come to him in salvation, and then He bids you to come to Him again and again and again. Every meal time you want to eat, and it is more often than that that Christ wants to Abide with you. He wants you to abide with Him and sup with Him 24 and 7.

- C. Then we come to David's grace toward **Barzillia**. After Barzillia's faithful service to David in feeding him in the wilderness, David blessed Barzillia. We read in **verse 39**, "when the king was come over, the king kissed Barzillai, and blessed him; and he returned unto his own place". Isn't it amazing that Barzillai was a man of means by the grace of God, and he used his means for the grace of God.

Brethren, "To whom much is given much will be required". But God will reward you for all that you use for Him. Whatever you have use it for Him. And one day you will hear "Well done thou good and faithful servant!"

Conclusion: Have you strayed from Christ? Draw near to Christ! He welcomes you!

Tonight we saw:

- The real hope in living close to Christ.
- The right attitudes of the heart for those who will live close to Christ
 - Absolute surrender
 - Unusual sacrifice
 - Unwavering service
- The remarkable heart of Christ for you!